

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 02215 150640Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 H-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00
INR-05 INRE-00 EUR-08 DODE-00 PM-03 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01
/054 W

-----150649Z 043799 /14

O 150527Z FEB 77 ZFF6
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1250
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 2215

LIMDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SENATOR PERCY'S OFFICE FOR MRS. JACOBSEN

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY (ENROUTE)

USUN FOR YOUNG

CIA FOR TURNER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IN, US
SUBJECT: SENATOR PERCY'S CONVERSATIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER GANDHI

1. SENATOR CHARLES PERCY, WHO WAS IN DELHI AS PART OF THE
DELEGATION TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE PRESIDENT, HAD AN
HOUR LONG CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER GANDHI FEBRUARY 14
ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. PERCY, ALSO A LONG-TIME FRIEND.

FOLLOWING ARE THE MAIN POINTS.

2. THE EMERGENCY: MRS. GANDHI SAID THAT THE MAIN ACHIEVEMENT OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 02215 150640Z

HER ADMINISTRATION WAS THE IMPROVEMENT IN NATIONAL UNITY AND
CITED THE BRINGING OF THE STATES OF THE NORTHEAST MORE INTO THE
MAINSTREAM OF THE COUNTRY. SHE SAID THAT THERE WAS NOW A SENSE
OF CONFIDENCE AND STRENGTH. ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR
CALLING THE EMERGENCY WAS THAT FOR SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE JUNE 1975
THERE WAS A SENSE OF DEMORALIZATION THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.
YOUTH WERE LEAVING AND EVERYONE WAS TRYING TO TAKE WHAT HE COULD;

SMUGGLING WAS RAMPANT. ALL THIS HAS COME TO AN END. FOR ALL PURPOSES EXCEPT TWO THE EMERGENCY HAS BEEN LIFTED: ECONOMIC CRIMINALS CONTINUE TO BE DEALT WITH UNDER THE SPECIAL PROVISIONS OF THE EMERGENCY BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM, AND TWO ORGANIZATIONS ARE STILL BANNED. ASKED WHAT PROBLEMS ENSUED FROM THE EMERGENCY SITUATION, MRS. GANDHI NOTED THE ENHANCED POWER OF THE POLICE AND BUREAUCRACY AND SAID THAT SHE HAS BEEN DILIGENTLY WORKING TO PREVENT ABUSES. MRS. GANDHI REPEATEDLY SAID THAT SHE WAS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE ELECTIONS PER SE BUT RATHER THE BEHAVIOR OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES AFTER ELECTIONS. "THE GENIE HAD NOW BEEN LET OUT OF THE BOTTLE". THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS PARTY WHO DID NOT GET TICKETS FOR PARLIAMENT. SHE NOTED THAT WILD RUMORS WERE BEING CIRCULATED TO DISCREDIT HER GOVT AND CITED THE STORY THAT CHILDREN WERE BEING STERILIZED BY BEING GIVEN INJECTIONS. PROFESSOR P.N. DHAR, THE PRIME MINISTER'S SENIOR ADVISOR WHO WAS PRESENT, SUGGESTED THAT SENATOR PERCY READ THE ECONOMIC PROGRAM OF THE JANATA PARTY. HE SAID IT WAS AN ABSURD PROGRAM AND WOULD DEMONSTRATE WHAT A HODGE-PODGE THE PARTY WAS.

3. FOREIGN AFFAIRS: MRS. GANDHI DESCRIBED INDIA'S IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN AND CHINA AS A "MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH". THE SOVIETS UNDERSTOOD THAT INDIA'S IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH CHINA WAS NOT AT THEIR EXPENSE. SIMILARLY, MRS. GANDHI SAID THAT US-INDIA RELATIONS DID NOT AFFECT INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH OTHERS SUCH AS THE SOVIETS. IN THIS CONTEXT, MRS. GANDHI SAID THAT SHE HAD PROBLEMS WITH THE CPI AND IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION SAID THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO TELL TO WHAT EXTENT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 02215 150640Z

THE CPI WAS CONTROLLED BY THE USSR. ASKED ABOUT PAKISTAN'S DEVELOPMENT OF A NUCLEAR CAPABILITY, MRS. GANDHI ANSWERED, "HOW FAR ALONG ARE THEY?" AND LEFT THE MATTER AT THAT. SENATOR PERCY RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE CIA AND ASSURED MRS. GANDHI THAT HE HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM THE HIGHEST AUTHORITIES THAT THERE WAS NO CIA INTERVENTION IN INDIA.

4. SENATOR PERCY EXPLAINED PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICY OF HAVING THE USG SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE HARMONY BETWEEN THE CONGRESS AND THE EXECUTIVE, SOMETHING WHICH HAD BEEN LACKING PREVIOUSLY. THE SENATOR EXPLAINED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD MET AT LENGTH WITH THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. THE SENATOR ASSURED THE PRIME MINISTER THAT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO TILT IN US POLICY TOWARD THE SUB-CONTINENT.

5. IN CLOSING, MRS. GANDHI EXPRESSED PLEASURE WITH THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND APPRECIATION FOR THE DELEGATION WHICH HE SENT TO ATTEND THE LATE RESIDENT'S FUNERAL. SHE ALSO

APPRECIATED THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY14
INDIAN PRESS, REPORTED SEPTTEL.

6. COMMENT: MRS. GANDHI WAS VERY FRIENDLY AND FORTHCOMING IN HER
COMMENTS AND THOROUGHLY IN COMMAND. SHE SUFFERS FROM SKIN
ERUPTIONS ON HER FACE, AND A TICK IN HER RIGHT EYE WAS NOTED,
BUT THESE DID NOT APPEAR TO TROUBLE HER.
END COMMENT.

7. SENATOR AND MRS. PERCY MET PRIVATELY WITH MRS. GANDHI THE
PREVIOUS EVENING, FEBRUARY 13. ACCORDING TO THE SENATOR, THE
PRIME MINISTER SEEMED MUCH MORE OUTGOING AND FRANK, BUT PESSIMIS-
TIC ABOUT HER OWN POLITICAL SITUATION. SHE WAS PARTICULARLY
CONCERNED ABOUT HER SON SANJAY, MAINTAINING THAT SHE WAS NOT
ENVISIONING HIM AS A SUCCESSOR. SHE SAID THAT SHE DID NOT FEEL
SHE COULD ACCOMPLISH IT, EVEN IF SHE WISHED.

8. CLEARED BY SENATOR PERCY IN DRAFT.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NEW DE 02215 150640Z

9. FOR DEPARTMENT: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE Laterally AS APPROPRIATE.
SCHNEIDER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY.CAUTION: THIS MESSAGE APPEARS TO CONTAIN SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE
INFORMATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CODELS, MEETING REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE02215
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770053-0161
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770241/aaaabjuz.tel
Line Count: 144
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0f3bcec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3319897
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENATOR PERCY'S CONVERSATIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER GANDHI
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, US, IN, (PERCY, CHARLES H), (GANDHI, INDIRA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0f3bcec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009